

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SAJ-01 GAC-01 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 MC-02

AEC-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /130 W
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R 071305 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4868

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06486

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, GW

SUBJECT: EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE FMOD (ADMIRAL STEINHAUS, PLANNING STAFF) THAT THE NEXT MAJOR EUROGROUP INITIATIVE WILL BE IN THE FIELD OF NON- OPERATIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES. STEINHAUS TOLD US MAY 4 THAT A MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON TRAINING COOPERATION IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED AT THE JUNE 6 EUROGROUP MEETING WHICH, IN ORGANIZATIONAL CONCEPT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT SIGNED LAST DECEMBER ON THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUIPMENT AND ARMS COLLABORATION. IN THE EXPECTED DECLARATION, CERTAIN GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES WILL BE SPELLED OUT AND SPECIFIC AREAS OF EFFORT AND PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR COOPERATION. TRAINING ACTIVITIES WILL, HOWEVER, COVER ONLY NON- OPERATIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES, STAYING CLEAR OF OPERATIONAL TRAINING WHICH IS NATO RESPONSIBILITY. HOPEFULLY, THE DECLARATION WILL PROMOTE HARMONIZATION OF

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METHODS, HELP FACILITATE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND CUT COSTS. ACCORDING TO STEINHAUS, WORKING GROUPS WILL BE SET UP TO HANDLE SELECTED PROJECTS; IN ADDITION, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO COORDINATE THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE OVER- ALL NATO FRAMEWORK.

2. IN OUR DISCUSSION, STEINHAUS NOTED THAT THE INITIATIVE IS NOT PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN BROADENING OR STRENGTHENING EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES. IT IS, HE SAID, ANOTHER IN THE STEP- BY- STEP PRAGMATIC PROGRAMS WHICH THE FRG HOPES TO DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE AND WHICH WILL GRADUALLY EXPAND COMMON DEFENSE ACTIVITIES AMONG THE EUROPEANS. ALLUDING TO THE FRG' S " HASTE MAKES WASTE" PHILOSOPHY ABOUT EUROGROUP, STEINHAUS SAID IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT MUCH MORE THAN LIMITED PROPOSALS FROM EUROGROUP AS LONG AS EUROPEAN UNITY IS LACKING. HE THOUGHT MUCH OF THE VALUE OF EUROGROUP IS IN THE GRADUAL GROWTH OF COMMON VIEWS AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL PROBLEMS AMONG EUROPEAN DEFENSE AUTHORITIES.

3. FINALLY, STEINHAUS SAID THE REFERENCE TO EUROGROUP PROJECTS IN THE SECRETARY' S 1973 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT WAS WIDELY NOTED AND APPRECIATED BY FRG AUTHORITIES. HIGH LEVEL RECOGNITION OF THIS KIND IS A USEFUL SPUR IN ENCOURAGING GREATER EFFORTS AMONG EUROGROUP MEMBERS, AND HE HOPED US STATEMENTS ALONG THIS LINE COULD BE ISSUED OCCASIONALLY.

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